6. Conversion of Single Base Module (SBM) exchange into RSUs exchanges.

7. Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges into Access Network Rural-Automatic Exchanges (AN-RAXs).

8. Centralized fault booking at Short Distrance Charging Centre/Long Distance Charging Centre (SDCC/LDCC).

9. Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.

10. Provision of extended maintenance free battery with WLL-FWT (Wireless in Local Loop-Fixed Wireless Terminal) for providing longer talk time and standby time, in future supplies.

11. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural Area including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.

12. Battery charger of WLL-FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300V, in future Supplies.

Improvement in the cellular services in Bihar

†3736. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cellular services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. have become so poor in Patna and other district headquarters of Bihar that often, the network does not function and has technical problems;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these problems are likely to be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, BSNL has provided 2,39,835 number of cellular mobile connections in Bihar including 55,756 in Patna. Due to full utilization of the network capacity, congestion in the mobile network has been observed sometimes dring the busy hours in Bihar including Patna. There are no other technical problems with the network.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The network capacity is being augmented by about 1 lakh lines for which equipment has been received and is planned to be commissioned by May, 2005.

BSNL has also taken action to further augment the mobile network capacity in Bihar by 4.55 lakh lines during 2005 to meet the over-whelming demand.

Demand-Supply Scenario of BSNL Mobile Phones in Orissa

3737. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA TIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Districts of Orissa have not been fully covered by BSNL cellular service;

(b) if so, the districts which have been left out;

(c) whether there is a big gap in the demand-supply scenario for BSNL mobile phone service in Orissa; and

(d) the number of towers set up so far and the target for the current year in providing mobile phone service in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided cellular mobile service in all the district headquarters of Orissa.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Post-paid mobile connections are being provided on demand, but due to capacity constraints, release of pre-paid connections is temporarily controlled.

(d) BSNL has so far commissioned around 300 radio base stations for cellular mobile services in the state with a capacity ot 2,44,900 lines and expansion of the network capacity by additional 5,00,000 lines during the current year is in progress.

Amendment in the Indian Patent Act

3738. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: